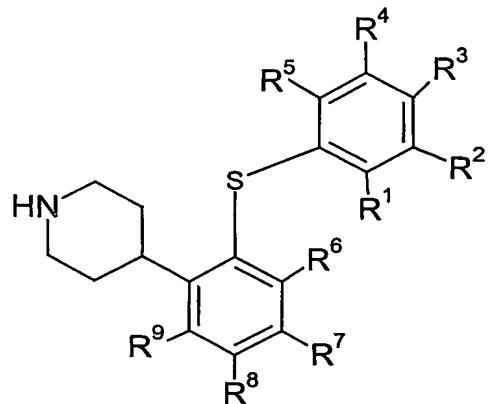


Claims:

1. A compound represented by the general formula I



5 I

Wherein

R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, cyano, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yloxy, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)ylsulfanyl, hydroxy, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, halo-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, halo-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yloxy, or NR^xR^y wherein R^x and R^y are independently selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, cyano-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, or NR^zR^w-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, wherein R^z and R^w are independently selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, or C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl; or R^x and R^y together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a 3-7-membered ring which optionally contains one further heteroatom;

R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yloxy, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)ylsulfanyl, hydroxy, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, halo-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, halo-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yloxy, or NR^xR^y wherein R^x and R^y are independently selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, cyano-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, or NR^zR^w-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, wherein R^z and R^w are independently selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl; or R^x and R^y together with the

nitrogen to which they are attached form a 3-7-membered ring which optionally contains one further heteroatom;

provided that at least one of R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, and R⁹ is different from hydrogen; also provided that when R³ is methyl, then at least one of R¹, R², R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹ is different from hydrogen; or a salt thereof.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein R¹ is selected from hydrogen, halogen, cyano, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yloxy, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)ylsulfanyl, halo-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, or NR^xR^y wherein R^x and R^y are independently selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, cyano-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, or NR^zR^w-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, wherein R^z and R^w are independently selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, or C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, provided that if one of R^x and R^y is NR^zR^w-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl then the other is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, cyano-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, or C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl; or R^x and R^y together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a 3-7-membered ring which optionally contains one further heteroatom; typically R¹ is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, or halogen.

3. The compound of any one of claims 1-2, wherein R² is selected from hydrogen, halogen, cyano, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yloxy, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)ylsulfanyl, halo-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl; typically, R² is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, halogen, or C₁₋₆-alkyl.

4. The compound of any one of claims 1-3, wherein R³ is selected from hydrogen, halogen, cyano, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yloxy, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)ylsulfanyl, halo-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl; typically, R³ is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, halogen, halo-C₁₋₆-alkyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, NR^xR^y wherein R^x is hydrogen and R^y is C₁₋₆-alkyl, or C₂₋₆-alkenyl; more typically, R³ is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, or halogen.

5. The compound of any one of claims 1-4 wherein R^4 is selected from hydrogen, halogen, cyano, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yloxy, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)ylsulfanyl, halo- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl; typically, R^4 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alkoxy, halogen, or C_{1-6} -alkyl

5
6. The compound of any one of claims 1-5 wherein R^5 is selected from hydrogen, halogen, cyano, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yloxy, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)ylsulfanyl, halo- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, or NR^xR^y wherein R^x and R^y are independently selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, cyano- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, or NR^zR^w - C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, wherein R^z and R^w are independently selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, or C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, provided that if one of R^x and R^y is NR^zR^w - C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl then the other is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, cyano- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, or C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl; or R^x and R^y together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a 3-7-membered ring which optionally contains one further heteroatom; typically R^5 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alkyl, or halogen.

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7. The compound of any one of claims 1-6 wherein R^6 is selected from hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, halo- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl; typically R^6 is selected from hydrogen, or halogen.

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8. The compound of any one of claims 1-7 wherein R^7 is selected from hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, halo- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl; typically R^7 is selected from hydrogen, or halogen.

9. The compound of any one of claims 1-8 wherein R^8 is selected from hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yloxy, halo- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, or NR^xR^y wherein R^x and R^y are independently selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, cyano- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, or NR^zR^w - C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, wherein R^z and R^w are independently selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, or C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, provided that if one of R^x and R^y is NR^zR^w - C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl then the

other is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, cyano-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, or C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl; or R^x and R^y together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a 3-7-membered ring which optionally contains one further heteroatom; typically R⁸ is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, halo-C₁₋₆-alkyl, or halogen.

5 10. The compound of any one of claims 1-9 wherein R⁹ is selected from hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, halo-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl; typically, R⁹ is selected from hydrogen, or halogen.

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11. The compound of any one of claims 1-10 wherein the compound of formula I has 1-4 substituents in the phenyl ring(s), selected from any one of R¹-R⁹, which are different from hydrogen, and the remaining substituents are hydrogen.

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12. The compound of claim 1, said compound being

4-[2-(4-Chloro-phenylsulfanyl)-5-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Methoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2,4-Dimethyl-phenylsulfanyl)-5-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Chloro-phenylsulfanyl)-4-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
20 4-[2-(4-Methoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-4-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-5-methyl-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2,4-Dimethyl-phenylsulfanyl)-5-methyl-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Fluoro-2-methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-5-methyl-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Methoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-5-methyl-phenyl]-piperidine
25 4-[2-(4-Chloro-2-methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Chloro-2-fluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2,4-Dichloro-phenylsulfanyl)-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2-Chloro-4-methoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Chloro-phenylsulfanyl)-phenyl]-piperidine
30 4-[2-(4-Methoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Chloro-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Methoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-3-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2,4-Dimethyl-phenylsulfanyl)-5-bromo-phenyl]-piperidine

4-[2-(4-Methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-4-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Chloro-phenylsulfanyl)-5-methyl-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-5-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2,4-Dimethyl-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
5 4-[2-(4-Fluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2-Chloro-4-fluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Methyl-4-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(3-Methoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2-Chloro-4-methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
10 4-[2-(2-Chloro-4-methoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Chloro-2-fluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2-Fluoro-4-methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2-Chloro-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2,4-Dichloro-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
15 4-[2-(2,4-Difluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2,4-Dimethyl-phenylsulfanyl)-3-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(Phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Bromo-2-fluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(3-Chloro-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
20 4-[2-(3-Fluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2-Fluoro-4-methoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2-Methyl-4-methoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2-Methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2-Fluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
25 4-[2-(4-Trifluoromethyl-phenylsulfanyl)-phenyl]-
4-[2-(2-Chloro-4-fluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Methoxy-2-methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2,4-Difluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2,3-Dimethyl-phenylsulfanyl)-phenyl]-piperidine
30 4-[2-(3,4-Dimethyl-phenylsulfanyl)-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2-Chloro-4-methoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-5-methyl-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2-Chloro-4-methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-5-methyl-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2-Fluoro-4-methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-5-methyl-phenyl]-piperidine

4-[2-(4-Fluoro-3-methoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-5-methyl-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(3-Fluoro-2-methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-5-methyl-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(3-Fluoro-4-methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-5-methyl-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(5-Chloro-2-fluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-5-methyl-phenyl]-piperidine
5 4-[2-(2-Chloro-4-fluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-5-methyl-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(3-Methoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-5-methyl-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Chloro-2-fluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-5-methyl-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(3-Chloro-2-fluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-5-methyl-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2,4-Difluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-5-methyl-phenyl]-piperidine
10 4-[2-(4-Methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-5-methoxy-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Fluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-5-methoxy-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2-Methyl-4-methoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-5-methoxy-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Fluoro-2-methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-5-methoxy-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(3-Methoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
15 4-[2-(2-Methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(3-Methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Methoxy-2-methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2-Methoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Fluoro-2-Methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
20 4-[2-(3-Fluoro-4-methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2,3-Dimethyl-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(3-Fluoro-2-methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(3-Chloro-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(3-Fluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
25 4-[2-(2-Fluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Fluoro-3-methoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2-Chloro-4-methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Chloro-2-fluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Trifluoromethyl-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
30 4-[2-(3-Chloro-2-fluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Chloro-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(3,4-Dimethyl-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine

4-[2-(2-Fluoro-4-methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2,4-Dichloro-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2-Fluoro-4-methoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2,4-Difluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
5 4-[2-(2-Chloro-4-methoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Methoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Fluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2,3-Dichloro-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2-Methoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
10 4-[2-(4-Trifluoromethoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Fluoro-2-methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Trifluoromethyl-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(3-Methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Chloro-2-methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
15 4-[2-(2,3-Dimethyl-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2,3-Dihydro-benzo[1,4]dioxin-6-ylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Fluoro-3-methoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2-Methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-4-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2-Chloro-phenylsulfanyl)-4-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
20 4-[2-(4-Fluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-4-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(3,4-Dimethyl-phenylsulfanyl)-4-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2-Chloro-4-Methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-4-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2-Fluoro-4-methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-4-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(5-Chloro-2-fluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-4-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
25 4-[2-(2-Chloro-4-fluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-4-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2,3-Dimethyl-phenylsulfanyl)-4-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(3-Fluoro-2-methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-4-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Methoxy-2-methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-4-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(3-Fluoro-4-methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-4-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
30 4-[2-(4-Fluoro-2-methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-4-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(4-Hydroxymethyl-phenylsulfanyl)-phenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2-Fluoro-4-methyl-amine-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluorophenyl]-piperidine
4-[2-(2-Fluoro-4-vinyl-phenylsulfanyl)-5-fluorophenyl]-piperidine,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of any one of claims

1-12 or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof and at least one

5 pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

14. The use of a compound of any one of claims 1 to 12 or a pharmaceutically

acceptable acid addition salt thereof for the preparation of a medicament for the

treatment of affective disorders, such as depression, anxiety disorders including

10 general anxiety disorder, social anxiety disorder, post traumatic stress disorder,

obsessive compulsive disorder, panic disorder, panic attacks, specific phobias, social

phobia and agoraphobia.

15. A method for the treatment of an affective disorder, such as depression,

15 anxiety disorders including general anxiety disorder, social anxiety disorder, post

traumatic stress disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, panic disorder, panic attacks,

specific phobias, social phobia and agoraphobia in a living animal body, including a

human, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound

of any one of claims 1- 12 or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

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16. A compound of any one of claims 1-12 for use as a medicament.